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# APPENDIX 6

## OUTREACH AND COORDINATION

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## Appendix 6.A DNREC Administrative and Partner Framework

This appendix describes Delaware's overall wildlife conservation delivery system. The mission of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is to ensure the wise management, conservation, and enhancement of the State's natural resources, protect public health and the environment, provide quality outdoor recreation, improve the quality of life and educate the public on historic, cultural, and natural resource use, requirements and issues (<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/AboutAgency.aspx>). DNREC works with many partners to meet the goals identified by their mission. DNREC administers natural resource conservation through a series of Divisions and Programs, each tasked with a separate focus area. The three offices are the Office of the Secretary, Office of Environmental Protection, and Office of Natural Resources. Responsibilities of the three offices are further distributed into the Divisions outlined below (<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/Divisions.aspx>).

### Office of the Secretary

**Division of Energy & Climate** is responsible for strategic energy planning and policy to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and economy of the State. The Division seeks to accelerate Delaware's transition to a clean energy economy and ensure that Delawareans have access to cost-effective and reliable energy by increasing energy efficiency and conservation, increasing the use of cleaner fossil fuels and renewable sources of energy, and modernizing Delaware's transmission and distribution infrastructure. The Division includes the Delaware Energy Office.

**Delaware Coastal Programs** manages, protects and monitors the state's coastal resources through the administration of the Delaware Coastal Management Program, Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) and the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. This includes managing over 6,000 acres in designated size, one of 28 National Estuarine Research Reserves across the country.

**Office of Community Services** is responsible for supervision of and coordinating compliance with federal, state, local regulations related to environmental and natural resources enforcement with DNREC's Divisions of Air Quality, Waste & Hazardous Substances, Water, Watershed Stewardship, Fish & Wildlife, and Parks & Recreation.

The **Financial Assistance Branch** administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, making funding available to municipalities, private organizations, nonprofit organizations and private individuals.

### Office of Environmental Protection

**Division of Air Quality** is responsible for protecting the public from harmful effects of air pollution in the outdoor air. The Division continuously monitors air quality, issues daily air quality forecasts and monitors emissions from air pollution sources in the state and oversees emission testing for vehicles.

**Division of Waste & Hazardous Substances** oversees the handling, transferring and storing of solid and hazardous waste by regulating, monitoring, inspecting and enforcing Delaware's environmental laws and regulations.

**Division of Water** monitors, manages and protects Delaware's ground and surface waters, tidal wetlands and underwater lands; serves as a link to the Delaware Estuary Program, Inland Bays Estuary programs and the Delaware River Basin Commission; provides centralized geographic information system services; and coordinates citizen volunteer monitoring programs.

## Office of Natural Resources

**Division of Parks and Recreation** protects and maintains 16 state parks and related preserves and greenways totaling more than 25,000 acres. The Division administers the state's land protection programs, as well as the Greenways program.

**Division of Watershed Stewardship** manages and protects the state's soil, water and coastlines with a comprehensive array of watershed programs to ensure proper stewardship of Delaware's natural resources.

**Division of Fish & Wildlife** conserves and manages the fish and wildlife resources of the state, including restoration of habitats; conducts biological surveys and studies of living resources; provides safe and enjoyable fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities to the citizens of Delaware and its visitors; manages over 60,000 acres including wildlife areas, ponds, boating access and other facilities for public use and enjoyment; controls mosquitoes to minimize nuisance and protect against mosquito-transmitted diseases; enforces fish and wildlife conservation and boating safety laws; provides fishing, hunting and boat licensing services; and improves the public's understanding and interest in fish and wildlife resources through information and outreach programs.

Both in 2005 and 2015 the Office of Natural Resources' Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) took the lead in the creation of the Wildlife Action Plan. DFW is organized into the following Sections:

- ❖ Director's Office
- ❖ Fisheries Section
  - Marine and Shellfish
  - Freshwater and Anadromous Fish
- ❖ Mosquito Control Section
- ❖ Wildlife Section
  - Habitat Conservation and Management
  - Species Conservation and Research
  - Landowner Incentive Program
- ❖ Enforcement Section
- ❖ Outreach, Licensing & Grants Section

## Other DNREC Programs

Several other conservation programs are within the DNREC opportunities for enhanced coordination at the state level to implement the DEWAP. The Bayshore Initiative in particular is an existing partner with DFW (<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/Delaware-Bayshore.aspx>).

### Collaboration with State Partners

In Delaware and adjacent states, DNREC DFW regularly meets with state partners to coordinate the conservation of important ecological and geographical resources containing SGCN and Key Habitats. Examples of these partnerships include the Delaware Bay, the Chesapeake Bay and many of the planning

areas listed in tables 5.2 and 5.3. These partnerships were utilized to develop the outreach and coordination plan for this DEWAP. These state agency and institutional partners will be involved annually to implement many of the DEWAP conservation actions. These agencies also meet more frequently to consult on specific projects in the state, such as large development or transportation activities. DelDOT is a key partner in that regard. The office of Planning's map was consulted in the DEWAP process and it will be important to disseminate information from the DEWAP to this office to integrate wildlife concerns into state planning activities. Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division is a key partner in SGCN and habitat management across the state. Care was taken to coordinate with the most current Forestry Plan in the Development of the DEWAP. Internal DNREC coordination between Wildlife, Fisheries, Water, Mosquito control, Parks and Recreation, and Bayshore Initiative are critical ongoing partnerships.

New partnerships will be formed as a result of this process and are critical to implementing new conservation actions that were identified by DNREC DFW and its partners. The existing partnerships represent institutional opportunities to involve numerous stakeholders in the implementation of the DEWAP, addressing the needs of SGCN and key habitats throughout the state. For instance, DNREC and its partners already own and/or manage over XXXXX acres of land within the state – lands which are already protecting SGCN and key habitats and available for adaptive management practices to enhance Priority Wildlife Habitat values. Opportunities for future collaboration include the annual coordination and other joint partnership meetings scheduled throughout the year. Updates to and progress towards conserving DEWAP target species, habitat and conservation actions are discussed and evaluated, allowing partners to incorporate accomplishments and updates into their plans, programs and annual budgets for synchronized implementation.

## Collaboration with Federal Partners

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

The USFWS maintains several fish and wildlife conservation efforts in Delaware. The National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System) has established a complex of National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) protecting valuable fish and wildlife habitat. The Coastal Delaware NWR Complex includes the prime Hook NWR and Bombay Hook NWR. These refuges have conserved approximately 2,125 acres of coastal habitat in the state (USFWS 2013). Each refuge has developed a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) that summarizes fish and wildlife resources and habitats, assesses the refuge's resource and management needs, and outlines a conservation plan for meeting those needs (USFWS 2013). Although the CCP was completed in 2013, the Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) and other more specific plans that address specific species or habitats, for each refuge within the Delaware NWR Complex have been developed and are revised to adapt to changing conditions and management priorities. Several SGCN are found on the USFWS refuges, representing a prime opportunity to incorporate SGCN and habitat information into their management plans in order to further implement the DEWAP through this important federal partner. Annual coordination

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meetings are anticipated to provide opportunities for information exchange and updates on DEWAP targets and implementation progress. Continued cooperative work on Piping Plover, colonial waterbirds, and rare beetles are examples of such opportunities over the next decade.

In addition to preserving land for the conservation of valuable fish and wildlife resources within Delaware, the USFWS has provided several million dollars in grants for conservation projects in the state in recent years. The USFWS and NRCS has a new partnership called Working Lands for Wildlife that uses agency technical assistance and financial assistance from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) to combat the decline of federally listed and other species of concern on private lands. This program allows for an additional opportunity for USFWS to work with DNREC DFW to implement management strategies of SGCN within the state of Delaware. The Delaware Bay Coastal Program in Smyrna, Delaware, collaborates with states and partners adjacent to Delaware Bay on habitat restoration projects, land conservation, and the identification of priority coastal habitats and threats to coastal and marine habitats ([http://www.fws.gov/r5sneq/area/Delaware\\_Bay.html](http://www.fws.gov/r5sneq/area/Delaware_Bay.html)).

The USFWS's Fisheries Program, National Estuarine Reserve Program, and the Chesapeake Bay Program work to protect fish and wildlife habitats in Delaware, focusing on the restoration of migratory fish. The USFWS also maintains a Law Enforcement Special Agent in Delaware to enforce existing federal fish and wildlife conservation laws and occasionally assist state law enforcement efforts. The DNREC DFW regularly collaborates with each of these USFWS offices and the refuges, and the grant programs represent a funding mechanism for implementing this DEWAP. Coordination meetings with each of these programs will occur throughout the next decade on important conservation issues (e.g., recovery planning, HMP revisions, landowner assistance, refuge planning, migratory bird planning) and provide opportunities to implement DEWAP target SGCN and key habitat conservation actions, and exchange and update information on these important targets. Revisions of each HMP and other program plans will allow USFWS to incorporate DEWAP targets and become an active implementation partner of the DEWAP.

### **U.S. Geological Survey**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has several on-going natural resource programs and projects within Delaware and its marine waters that contribute to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources. The Water Resources Division (WRD) of the USGS has on-going projects to study water quality and quantity in Delaware. The Biological Resources Division (BRD) of the USGS also has scientific programs to aid in the understanding and conservation of fish and wildlife resources within Delaware, with staff located at the Water Science for Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia (<http://md.water.usgs.gov/>). DNREC DFW coordinates with USGS scientists to monitor, research, and protect the state's fish and wildlife resources, and this ongoing partnership will allow for efficient implementation of several of the research and monitoring needs identified in this DEWAP.

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers several key programs for private landowners, states, communities, tribes and nonprofit organizations to conserve and protect fish and wildlife resources (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, Table 6-4). These programs typically are administered with the assistance of the USFWS and in Delaware, the DNREC DFW. The grant programs offer a means for the state to collaborate with private landowners to achieve fish and wildlife conservation goals in a cooperative manner. The NRCS develops State Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) plans to prioritize habitat needs and areas within each state. Funding from the WHIP and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) have restored hundreds of acres of these priority habitats, and provide an ongoing partnership for implementing DEWAP conservation actions related to these key habitats and the SGCN they support. This is a key partnership opportunity for implementing conservation for SGCN and key habitats, as NRCS incorporates the information from the DEWAP into their plan revisions and programs.

NRCS also addresses the need for pollinators to enhance biodiversity through a number of methods including the Farm Bill of 2008 and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/help/>). The Farm Bill authorizes a range of incentive-based conservation programs on agricultural lands that can be used to create or improve pollinator habitat. Farmers who participate in these programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) receive special consideration for financial incentives. Other programs under the Farm Bill allow opportunities for landowners to conserve and create habitats for pollinators through the use of certain plants for cover crops and riparian buffers and through the handling of pest management practices and prescribed burning. NRCS is also a partner in the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign that is an alliance of over 150 state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and corporations that coordinate pollinator research, conservation, education, and policy in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

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Table App. 6. 1 Natural resource conservation programs available through the federal U.S. Department of Agriculture to Delaware and their allocations for FY2013 (or last year available).

| Agency  | Program                                   | Description  | Financial Assistance | Technical Assistance |
|---|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) | Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)        | Voluntary program for farmers and ranchers to assist in compliance with environmental laws and regulations, establish vegetative cover on highly erodible cropland, improve water quality, establish wildlife habitat, and enhance wetlands and forests.                 | Yes                  | Yes                  |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA         | Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)  | Voluntary program that provides cost-share assistance to farms for watershed management or irrigation structures, tree planting for windbreaks or water quality improvement, soil erosion control measures, integrated pest management or conversion to organic farming. | Yes                  |                      |
|   | Conservation Partnership Initiative (CPI) | Voluntary program that provides grants to states, communities, tribes, and NGOs for planning conservation projects in terrestrial and aquatic habitat, coastal resources, livestock nutrient management, and/or minor/specialty crop pest management.                    | Yes                  | Yes                  |
|   | Conservation Security Program (CSP)       | Voluntary conservation program that rewards farmers and ranchers in high priority watersheds (including the Scituate Reservoir and Pocasset watersheds) that maintain and enhance the highest standards of environmental stewardship on their lands.                     | Yes                  | Yes                  |



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| Agency | Program  | Description  | Financial Assistance | Technical Assistance |
|--------|--|--|----------------------|----------------------|
|        | Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)         | Voluntary program that provides cost sharing for agricultural improvements that will help meet water quality and other environmental objectives.   | Yes                  | Yes                  |
|        | Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)         | Voluntary program that provides matching funds to state, tribal or local governments, and non-governmental organizations to purchase development rights to maintain existing farms and/or ranches. | Yes                  |                      |
|        | Farmland Protection Program                            | Voluntary program that provides matching funds to states, communities, tribes and nonprofit organizations for the purchase of conservation easements to protect productive farmland.               | Yes                  |                      |
|        | Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)                        | Voluntary program that allows landowners to protect, enhance or restore grasslands, pastures, shrublands, and ranges on their properties.  | Yes                  | Yes                  |
|        | Resource Conservation and Development (RCandD) Program | Localized program that assists state, tribal and local governments and NGOs in rural areas in conservation planning and management, sustainable development and quality of life improvements.      | Yes                  | Yes                  |

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| Agency | Program   | Description  | Financial Assistance | Technical Assistance |
|--------|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|
|        | Soil and Water Conservation Assistance (SWCA)     | Voluntary program to provide cost-share incentives to farms and ranches for soil and water conservation measures, related natural resource conservation, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations.   | Yes                  |                      |
|        | Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program | Voluntary program that assists landowners and local organizations to develop and implement watershed plans, conduct river basin studies, flood hazard analyses, floodplain management practices, and water and land conservation measures.                                     | Yes                  | Yes                  |
|        | Watershed Surveys and Planning                    | Voluntary program that assists states, communities, tribes and others to survey and plan watershed protection, sediment and erosion control, water quality, flood prevention, fish and wildlife enhancement, wetland restoration and creation, and other water needs projects. | Yes                  | Yes                  |
|        | Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)                    | Voluntary conservation program that protects, enhances and restores wetlands and their wildlife resources on private lands.  | Yes                  | Yes                  |
|        | Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)        | Voluntary program that assists landowners to create high quality aquatic, riparian, wetland and upland habitat areas that support wildlife populations of local, state, national or tribal significance.   | Yes                  | Yes                  |

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| Agency                    | Program                                    | Description  | Financial Assistance | Technical Assistance |
|---------------------------|--|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| U.S. Forest Service, USDA | Forest Inventory and Analysis Program      | Tracks the status, distribution and health of forestland throughout the country.   |                      | Yes                  |
|                           | National Resources Inventory (NRI) Program | Monitors the status and trends of non-federal land use throughout the country.   |                      | Yes                  |
|                           | Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP)       | Voluntary program that encourages private forest landowners to maintain productive and healthy forests.  | Yes                  | Yes                  |
|                           | State and Private Forestry Programs        | Assists private landowners, businesses, states, tribes and communities to sustain and manage forestlands, control invasive species, restore urban trees and greenspace, and manage the impacts of wildland fires on communities and the environment. | Yes                  | Yes                  |

## Other important Federal Partners

DNREC and the DEWAP process coordinated with several other key federal agencies.

### The National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) does not have a big presence in Delaware but maintains several historic sites and trails in DE and can be investigated at: [www.nps.gov/de/](http://www.nps.gov/de/).

### U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) offers technical and financial assistance to states, operates national programs on invasive species, forest and rangeland management (including fire) and biological diversity, and tracks the status, distribution and health of forestland throughout the country (<http://www.fs.fed.us/>). While there are no national forests in Delaware, the DNREC partners with the USFS to inventory and monitor the state's forest resources, the trends of which are discussed in Chapters 2, 3, and 4. This existing partnership provides a foundation to implement DEWAP survey, monitoring and conservation actions related to key forest habitats.

### Northeast Climate Science Center

The Northeast Climate Science Center (NECSC) is part of a federal network of eight Climate Science Centers created to provide scientific information, tools, and techniques that managers and other parties interested in land, water, wildlife and cultural resources can use to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate change.

Recognizing the critical threats and unique climate challenges and the expansive and diverse nature of the NE region, no one institution can provide the region-wide expertise on all critical levels. Thus, the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass), College of Menominee Nation (CMN), Columbia University (CU), Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), University of Minnesota (UMN), University of Missouri Columbia (UMO), and University of Wisconsin-Madison (UWI) have formed the Northeast Climate Consortium (NECC) to host the DOI NECSC, working with USGS and partners to provide deep and diverse resources for successfully meeting the regional needs for climate impact science assessment, education and stakeholder outreach throughout the NE region. In addition to the host institutions, the NECSC will include several resource management partners, including Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) that exist, in part or whole, within the NECSC bounds. <http://necsc.umass.edu/> <http://www.doi.gov/csc/northeast/index.cfm>

### Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the federal agency responsible for enforcing the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other environmental regulations that protect Delaware's fish and wildlife resources. The agency has a specific presence in Delaware through DNREC DWS which administers its water

quality and wetland assessment programs. Maps resulting from this joint federal/state effort are displayed in Chapters 2 and 3 to depict relative condition of important aquatic and wetland habitat resources in the state. Delaware's Water Portal can be accessed at [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/wr](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/wr).

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) administers several natural resource programs that effect Delaware's fish and wildlife resources (<http://www.noaa.gov>). NOAA is the key federal agency charged with protecting the nation's marine resources, including federally-listed marine species such as sea turtles (when they are in the water; the USFWS has jurisdiction over nesting sea turtles) and Shortnose Sturgeon. Federal fishery management plans (FMPs) and the implementation of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) regulations are also NOAA functions. As a result of these interests, NOAA maintains a research and regulatory presence in the state's marine waters.

The Sea Grant Program falls under NOAA as well. NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management oversees state coastal zone management agencies (the Coastal Resources Management Council-CRMC), authorizing and funding their management programs (<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/>). In addition, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration produces oil spill ecological risk maps and responds to the clean-up and restoration of damaged ecosystems following oil and fuel spills (<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>). NOAA is the leading federal agency promoting the research and restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and has collaborated with (and funded) eelgrass restoration projects in Delaware Bay. NOAA also manages a network of National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR),

### **Mid- Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

As mentioned in Chapter 1, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) (<http://www.mafmc.org>) is a regional council that manages the fishery stocks of numerous marine and estuarine species, several of which have been identified as SGCN for Delaware (e.g., Atlantic Sturgeon, short-nosed sturgeon, skates). Delaware is a member of the MAFMC, and DNREC regularly collaborates with the Council on the protection and management of these species as well as marine habitats. The Council also works with NMFS and others in the protection of key habitats through the designation of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern and Marine Protected Areas, the management of EFH, and collaborative fisheries management research through NMFS's Cooperative Research Partners Program.

### **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**

Delaware is a member of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), which assists in the management of mobile fishery species within state waters through regional and national coordination (<http://www.asmfc.org>). As listed in Chapter 1, the ASMFC has formulated interstate fishery management

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plans for several SGCN, including American Eel, Atlantic Sturgeon, Atlantic Menhaden, Lobster, Horseshoe Crab, Weakfish, and Winter Flounder. The Commission's Research and Statistics Program coordinates stock assessments, tagging, habitat mapping, economic and social science studies and many other research efforts related to fisheries resources and management. Thus the ASMFC is a vital partner and mechanism for protecting Delaware's fishery resources.

### **Department of Defense**

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) operates the Dover Air Force Base in Dover DE. This large base coordinates with DNREC and maintains current natural and cultural resource management plans to minimize impacts to Delaware's wildlife and habitats. The two agencies have worked together on the restoration of military lands, remediating contaminated sites and wildlife concerns ([www.dover.af.mil/](http://www.dover.af.mil/)).

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is the federal agency that oversees the protection of wetlands and waters of the U.S. through the Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permit program and the Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act permit program. These permit programs protect the wetlands and waters of Delaware by avoiding, minimizing and mitigating impacts to these important habitats. DNREC closely coordinates with the ACOE on its regulatory functions to protect the state's wetlands and waters, and the SGCN and key habitats identified in the DEWAP can be integrated into those regulatory permit reviews. ACOE also designs, constructs and maintains water resources development projects like dredging, dredge disposal, and shoreline stabilization. The Water Management Section owns and maintains numerous dams, reservoirs and floodways, but none of these are located in Delaware. The technical and financial assistance programs of the ACOE, including their Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program, will provide an additional mechanism to implement DEWAP conservation actions.

## **Collaboration with Academic Partners**

### **University of Delaware**

DU is an important partner with the Delaware conservation community, collaborating with the DNREC and the other partners to research, monitor, and implement a variety of conservation projects throughout the state. DE participated in the DEWAP revision process through its expertise and several staff members served on the Technical review Team, attended workshops, and provided invaluable information on the SGCN and Key habitats. Several key studies on marsh migration and climate change as well as secretive marsh birds provided DE and the 13 NE states important information on these threatened systems. DU was awarded a Regional Conservation Needs Program Grant for these important regional projects.

### **Delaware State University**

Delaware State University provided critical expertise during the DEWAP process. Staff members participated in the Scientific Review team and attended workshops to select the SGCN and key habitats. They provided important statistics information on the status of SGCN from their studies and experience.

### ***Delaware Cooperative Extension Service***

The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service has programs on agriculture and forestry, domesticated animal health, and water quality assistance to local, state, federal governments and landowners. The Extension Service assisted in the DEWAP process by cosponsoring a wildlife workshop and presenting information on the DEWAP at its annual conference to a wider audience of important agricultural and forest landowners. URI was a key partner in the development of this DEWAP and will remain an important partner in its implementation in many aspects.

## Appendix 6.B DEWAP Process Development Plan and Schedule

This appendix depicts the SWAP process and the project flow chart of major steps identified in the process. It lays out the tasks and stages of Delaware's Wildlife Action Plan process and lists the timeframe for completion and the key parties leading and/or involved with each stage. Timeframes are presented in quarterly intervals of the calendar year and represent actual completion times in the development process as well as anticipated completion targets for the implementation and revision processes.

For the 2015 DEWAP Revision, a consultant, Terwilliger Consulting Inc., assisted DNREC DFW staff in the development of the process and product. The overall approach was to be as inclusive and comprehensive as possible. This DEWAP was viewed as an opportunity to inventory, poll, and coordinate with the wide array of existing public and private conservation programs and to further provide a common goal and direction for not only DNREC DFW efforts, but for other public and private conservation efforts in Delaware.

The goal of this effort was to chart a course for comprehensive wildlife conservation in Delaware for the next decade. Notable objectives were to:

- Complete and approve the DEWAP by October 1, 2015;
- Develop a broader, more comprehensive and effective conservation strategy for wildlife species and habitats in Delaware using the SWG SWAP process;
- Develop broader and more effective public/stakeholder support and collaboration for wildlife conservation in Delaware;
- Provide for a coordinated, effective wildlife conservation delivery system in the state by charting a scientifically sound strategy supported by the conservation community and beyond; and
- To see implementation and integration of this plan by DNREC and the conservation community at large.

### ***DEWAP Planning Process***

The following table summarizes the planning process utilized throughout the development of Delaware's Wildlife Action Plan and outlines the anticipated review and revision schedule for the next revision in ten years.



Delaware Wildlife Action Plan

Table App. 6. 2 2015 Revision Timeline

| <b>TIMELINE</b>  | <b>2013</b>                   |                               | <b>2014</b>                   |                               |                               |                               | <b>2015</b>                   |                               |                               |                                       |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>DE WAP TASKS</b>  | <b>3<sup>rd</sup><br/>Qtr</b> | <b>4<sup>th</sup><br/>Qtr</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup><br/>Qtr</b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup><br/>Qtr</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup><br/>Qtr</b> | <b>4<sup>th</sup><br/>Qtr</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup><br/>Qtr</b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup><br/>Qtr</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup><br/>Qtr</b> | <b>2015 thru<br/>2025</b>             |
| <i>Planning (Project development and research)</i>   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                                       |
| Plan and scope project   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                                       |
| Plan meetings for agency and stakeholders  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                                       |
| Develop communication/outreach plan and materials  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                                       |
| Research and inventory programs, plans, data, maps   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                                       |
| Contact/communicate with staff, stakeholders, public   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                                       |
| Plan Component Development (eight key elements)  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                                       |
| <i>ID Species/Habitats of Greatest Conservation Need</i>   |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               | Annual coordinate with S rank process |
| Research and compile data, compile existing GCN list and ID categories, get staff input on draft list, send to staff for additions to draft/send habitat associations to staff-habitat associations descriptions/writing |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                                       |

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Refine for stakeholder workshop  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Engage DNREC staff, other public agencies and stakeholders, experts, Teaming With Wildlife Coalition through workshops |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review and refine lists (staff and experts)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Annual coordinate with S rank process    |
| Engage broader public as appropriate   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>ID Conservation Threats and Actions for each species/habitat</i>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Annual coordinate with S rank process    |
| Research and compile existing data   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Engage agency staff and stakeholders through workshops   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Review and refine lists (staff); prioritize actions  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Engage broader public as appropriate   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i>Develop monitoring/evaluation strategy</i>  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Annual coordinate with project reporting |
| <i>Develop maps and supporting materials</i>   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | As needed                                |
| Write plan   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2023                                     |

# Delaware Wildlife Action Plan

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Outline and format (draft for DNREC approval)   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2023                                      |
| <i>Draft plan</i>                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2024                                      |
| Submit for review and revisions, make revisions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2025                                      |
| <i>Submit final plan</i>                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2025                                      |
| <i>Implementation, review, revision</i>         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Coordinate with Grant agreement reporting |

## Appendix 6.C List of DEWAP Stakeholders

This Appendix lists Delaware's stakeholders that were contacted in the development of the 2015 Revision and whom will continue to be contacted with updates during its implementation and next 2025 revision. These stakeholders received email, phone or meeting requests for information and input on the development and implementation of the DEWAP (Elements 7 & 8). They were invited to attend the key workshops held to incorporate their input on SGCN, key habitat, issue and conservation action development. They were also periodically reminded to visit the web page to see updates. **Highlighted indicates that we need to revisit these partners or are still waiting for replies to emails or calls.**

- American Birding Association
- Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
- Brandywine Conservancy
- Center for the Inland Bays
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Conservancy
- Christina Conservancy
- City of Newark
- Delaware Audubon
- Delaware Bass Federation
- **Delaware Council of Wildlife**
- Delaware Estuary
- Delaware Farm Bureau
- Delaware Greenways
- Delaware Invasive Species Council
- Delaware Museum of Natural History
- Delaware Nature Society
- Delaware Wild Lands, Inc.
- **Delaware Riverkeeper Network**
- Delaware Department of Agriculture – Plant Industries, Agricultural Preservation and Planning, and Forestry
- Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation
- Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Delaware Division of Water Resources
- Delaware Department of Agriculture
- Delaware Department of Transportation
- **Delaware River Basin Commission**
- Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service
- Delaware State University
- Delmarva Ornithological Society
- Ducks Unlimited, Delaware Chapter
- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- Flint Woods Preserve
- Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware
- Longwood Gardens Natural Areas
- Marine Mammal Education, Research, & Rehabilitation
- Mt. Cuba Center
- Kent Conservation District
- Nanticoke Indian Tribe
- Nanticoke River Watershed Conservancy
- National Park Service – White Clay

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- National Wild Turkey Federation, Delaware Chapter
- New Castle Conservation District
- North American Land Trust
- Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge
- Sussex Conservation District
- Partnership in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary – Delaware Estuary Program
- Pepco Holdings, Inc.
- Sierra Club
- **Surfrider Foundation**
- Sussex Bird Club
- Sussex County Land Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy – Delaware Chapter
- The Wildlife Society – MD/DE Chapter
- Tristate Bird Rescue
- University of Delaware
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Chesapeake Bay Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Delaware Bay Estuary Project
- U.S. Geological Survey
- White Clay Creek Conservancy
- Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

## Appendix 6.D DEWAP Public Input/Outreach Approach

This appendix summarized the input plan that was designed for use in the DEWAP process to contact Delaware's stakeholders and public (Elements 7 & 8). The input plan identified different tiers of stakeholders and developed appropriate messages, methods, and objectives for each group.

Table App. 6. 3 Audience Tiers

|   | Audiences Targeted   |  |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
|   | <b>Tier 1<br/>Stakeholders-<br/>DNREC,<br/>Fed/sate<br/>partners<br/>Collaborators<br/>Goal: Consult<br/>and<br/>collaborate</b> | <b>Tier 2<br/>Stakeholders-<br/>Interested<br/>but limited<br/>investment<br/>Goal: Inform<br/>and involve</b> | <b>Tier 3<br/>General<br/>Public<br/>Goal-<br/>Inform</b> |   |
| <b>Type of Promotion</b>  |  |  |   | <b>Target Date</b>  |
| <b>Direct Email/Call<br/>Fact sheets/ program<br/>material/ surveys</b>   | Email, mail 4/14   | Email, mail 4/14   | Unique<br>replies to<br>emails                            | Quarterly (Same as<br>website- see below)   |
| <b>Direct mail/email<br/>Brochures/Flyers</b>   | Email, mail 4/14   | Email, mail 4/14   |   | Initial mailing , then<br>distribute at meetings &<br>presentations throughout<br>14-15   |
| <b>Website- Updated<br/>quarterly<br/>Phase 1- Introductory<br/>material<br/>Phase 2- GCN<br/>species/habitat info<br/>Phase 3- Conservation<br/>Actions, Threats<br/>Phase 4- Conservation<br/>Actions Draft<br/>Phase 5- Draft Plan<br/>update<br/>Phase 6- final plan<br/>announcement</b> | maps and<br>threats to help<br>ID conservation<br>Actions  | X  | X   | Winter 2013 through April<br>2014- Intro materials<br>July 2014- GCN info and<br>solicit<br>October Conservation<br>actions - solicit input<br>Jan 15- C Actions draft<br>April- June 15 Draft plan<br>September 15- Final Plan |
| <b>Planning Committee<br/>meetings<br/>DNREC/agency internal<br/>memos- Inreach<br/>TWW<br/>meetings/correspondence</b>   | X  |  |   | Meeting- Every month<br>monthly updates<br>monthly emails minimum   |
| <b>Newsletters- put in org<br/>/agency newsletters</b>  | X  | X  |   | Quarterly to every 6<br>months  |
|   |  |  |   |   |

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|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Magazine articles- DNREC or state conservtn orgs</b>                   | X   | X                                 | X                                 | Quarterly to every 6 months                            |
| <b>Public relations: press releases</b>                                   | Quarterly X                               | X                                 | X                                 | Quarterly with website updates                         |
| <b>Workshop</b>   | June- GCN<br>January- Conservtn Actions X | X                                 | X                                 | 2 for Tier 1 ,possible invite to Tier 2                |
| <b>Exhibit /poster at Meetings</b>  | X   | X                                 |                                   | Every Possible state meeting; set up traveling exhibit |
| <b>DNREC staff and TWW staff briefing/report at all meetings possible</b> | Distribute brochures, and updates         | Distribute brochures, and updates | Distribute brochures, and updates | All meetings possible<br>Develop schedule and list     |
| <b>Presentations to Tier 2 and 3 groups</b>                               |   |                                   |                                   | As requested   |

## Appendix 6.E DEWAP Public Input Timeline and Tracking

This Appendix outlines the approach for major workshops held during the DEWAP development process, each of which solicited input from stakeholders/public/partners at important phases of the document's development. Although there were many Revision Development and Technical Review Team meetings and workshops, the first Stakeholder Workshop was held on April 24, 2014, and not only reviewed the Revision process and timeline, but also solicited input on the selection and identification of SGCN, key habitats, conservation issues and actions, and data gaps. The second workshop was held on December 2, 2014, and focused primarily with more detail about identifying and addressing new/emerging issues and conservation actions to Delaware SGCN and habitats. Following initial invitational emails, reminder emails inclusive of materials to review in preparation for the workshops, were sent to stakeholders. June 17, 2015, the third and final workshop allowed experts, partners, and stakeholders to review, edit, and rank the updated issues and conservation actions. Follow up meetings/correspondence with participants provided for input and comments to be incorporated. Notices for and information from these meetings were posted on the web.

A list of most meetings, workshops, and correspondence is below. The information in this list is not inclusive of all outreach nor is it inclusive of all details of the listed events and correspondence. It is to be assumed that information or events available for the broader audience tiers were also available for more refined participant tiers.

Table App. 6. 4 2015 Delaware Wildlife Action Plan Outreach

| <b><u>Event Title</u></b>   | <b><u>Date</u></b> | <b><u>Participant Tier</u></b> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Meeting   | 8-Jan-13           | Regional                       |
| NE Synthesis Project  | 25-Feb-13          | Regional                       |
| NE SWAP Database and Synthesis Project  | 13-Mar-13          | Regional                       |
| 69th Annual Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference  | 7-Apr-13           | Regional                       |
| NE Regional Synthesis Steering Committee Work Session   | 8-Apr-13           | Regional                       |
| NE Regional Conservation Tools for SWAP Revision  | 9-Apr-13           | Regional                       |
| Connect, Conserve, and Collaborate In an Era of Changing Landscapes - The Tango of Landscape Conservation | 4-Jun-13           | Regional                       |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call   | 11-Sep-13          | Partners                       |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call   | 12-Sep-13          | Partners                       |
| NEFWDTC Annual Meeting  | 23-Sep-13          | Regional                       |
| DEWAP Set Up Meeting  | 26-Sep-13          | Stakeholders                   |
| DEWAP Conference Call   | 1-Oct-13           | Partners                       |



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|--|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>DEWAP Conference Call</b>   | <b>3-Oct-13</b>  | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>3-Oct-13</b>  | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>Northeast Wildlife Administrators Association Fall 2013 Meeting</b> | <b>8-Oct-13</b>  | <b>Regional</b>     |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>18-Oct-13</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>DEWAP Planning Meeting</b>  | <b>22-Oct-13</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>4-Nov-13</b>  | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>2-Dec-13</b>  | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>16-Dec-13</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>Oversight Team Presentation</b>                                     | <b>18-Dec-13</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>Wildlife Diversity Program Managers</b>                             | <b>6-Jan-14</b>  | <b>Regional</b>     |
| <b>Data Management Meeting (DE &amp; AL)</b>                           | <b>12-Jan-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>DEWAP Coordination Call</b>   | <b>14-Jan-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>21-Jan-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Meeting</b>   | <b>29-Jan-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>Northeast State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators Meeting</b>       | <b>4-Feb-14</b>  | <b>Regional</b>     |
| <b>Database Meeting</b>  | <b>19-Feb-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>20-Feb-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>27-Feb-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>27-Feb-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>Workshop: Preparing for Tomorrow's High Tide</b>                    | <b>1-Mar-14</b>  | <b>Stakeholders</b> |
| <b>DE WAP email established</b>  | <b>5-Mar-14</b>  | <b>Stakeholders</b> |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>11-Mar-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>DE WAP RDT Meeting</b>  | <b>27-Mar-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>Advisory Council on Wildlife and Freshwater Fish</b>                | <b>1-Apr-14</b>  | <b>Public</b>       |
| <b>70th Annual Northeast Fish &amp; Wildlife Conference</b>            | <b>13-Apr-14</b> | <b>Regional</b>     |
| <b>Conference Call</b>   | <b>21-Apr-14</b> | <b>Stakeholders</b> |
| <b>Communications</b>  | <b>24-Apr-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>DEWAP 2015 Revision Kick Off Meeting</b>                            | <b>24-Apr-14</b> | <b>Public</b>       |
| <b>DFW Web Site Update</b>   | <b>9-May-14</b>  | <b>Public</b>       |
| <b>DFW Web Site Update</b>   | <b>14-May-14</b> | <b>Public</b>       |
| <b>SGCN list review request</b>  | <b>5-Jun-14</b>  | <b>Partners</b>     |
| <b>Update Letter</b>   | <b>17-Jun-14</b> | <b>Stakeholders</b> |
| <b>RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call</b>                                 | <b>20-Jun-14</b> | <b>Partners</b>     |

Appendix 6.A-F

|  |           |              |
|--|-----------|--------------|
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 25-Jun-14 | Partners     |
| Update Letter                            | 30-Jun-14 | Partners     |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 22-Jul-14 | Partners     |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 8-Aug-14  | Partners     |
| NEFWDTC Annual Meeting                   | 2-Sep-14  | Regional     |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 8-Sep-14  | Partners     |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 1-Oct-14  | Partners     |
| SGCN list email                          | 9-Oct-14  | Partners     |
| SGCN list email                          | 14-Oct-14 | Partners     |
| DFW Web Site Update                      | 15-Oct-14 | Public       |
| Press Release                            | 30-Oct-14 | Public       |
| PR published                             | 31-Oct-14 | Public       |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 31-Oct-14 | Partners     |
| DEWAP Workshop Invite                    | 17-Nov-14 | Stakeholders |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 21-Nov-14 | Partners     |
| DEWAP Partner & Stakeholder Workshop     | 2-Dec-14  | Stakeholders |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 16-Dec-14 | Partners     |
| DE & AL Database Meetings                | 12-Jan-15 | Partners     |
| AG Woodland Wildlife Conference          | 16-Jan-15 | Regional     |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 20-Jan-15 | Partners     |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 20-Jan-15 | Partners     |
| Federal Aid Meeting                      | 23-Jan-15 | Partners     |
| Expert Engagement                        | 26-Jan-15 | Partners     |
| NE Regional Coordination Call            | 20-Feb-15 | Regional     |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 11-Mar-15 | Partners     |
| Expert Engagement                        | 13-Mar-15 | Partners     |
| RD Team DEWAP Coordination Call          | 13-Mar-15 | Partners     |
| Bird Expert Workshop                     | 6-Apr-15  | Partners     |
| DEWAP Key Habitat Classification Meeting | 29-Apr-15 | Partners     |
| Personal Communication; Lenape Tribe     | 4-Jun-15  | Partners     |
| Stakeholder Workshop                     | 17-Jun-15 | Stakeholders |
| Public Open House                        | 28-Jul-15 | Public       |
| Public Open House                        | 28-Jul-15 | Public       |

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|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>Public Open House</b> | <b>29-Jul-15</b> | <b>Public</b> |
| <b>Public Open House</b> | <b>29-Jul-15</b> | <b>Public</b> |
| <b>Public Open House</b> | <b>30-Jul-15</b> | <b>Public</b> |
| <b>Public Open House</b> | <b>30-Jul-15</b> | <b>Public</b> |

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## Appendix 6.F DEWAP Outreach Materials

This appendix reprints the agendas for the first and last major workshops held during the DEWAP development process, to serve as examples of all such workshops, each of which solicited input from stakeholders/public/partners at important phases of the document’s development. Also found here are examples of outreach materials utilized during the revision process.

### ***Agendas and Reports***

### ***Fact Sheet***

### ***News Releases***

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